DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 376 985 PS 022 881

AUTHOR Winson, Andrea
TITLE Study Buddies. Project Seed.
INSTITUTION Maine Center for Educational Services.
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 6p.; Prepared at the Lyseth Elementary School, Portland, Maine.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Cooperation; *Cross Age Teaching; Intermediate Grades; Interpersonal Relationship; *Learning Activities; *Peer Relationship; *Peer Teaching; Primary Education; Program Descriptions; Public Service; Self Esteem
IDENTIFIERS *Student Cooperation; *Student Teams

ABSTRACT

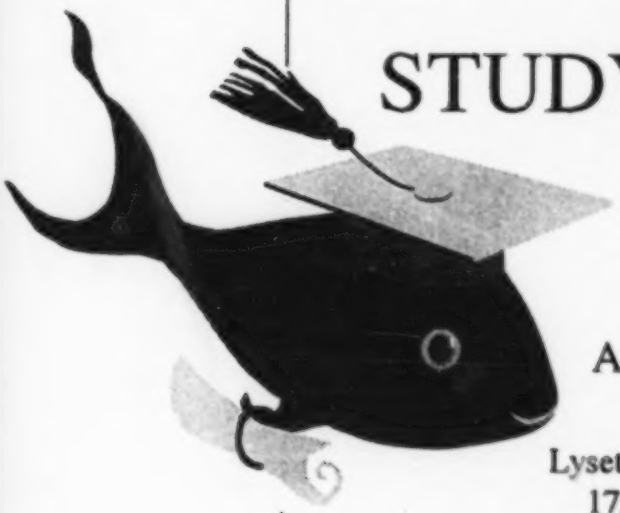
The Study Buddies program is a partnership between an upper elementary classroom and a primary classroom. The program could be modified for any grade level as long as all the class members are willing to work with a different grade level class on a regular basis throughout the school year. Participating students and teachers plan social activities, academic enrichment sessions, and social service projects that can be done cooperatively. The primary goal of the Study Buddies program is to foster cooperation between students and teachers at different grade levels, but other goals include increasing effective communication, promoting responsible citizenship through service projects, and providing enrichment activities for all students. Most activities are shared on a whole class basis on an established schedule, but buddies also do things together on their own. The program may be used in all areas of the curriculum. Observable outcomes in the students who participate in the program include: planning and organizational skills; appreciation of varied developmental skills; adjustment to personality and skill differences; better listening skills; higher self-esteem; and mutual respect between older and younger students. The Study Buddies program is an inexpensive program with the cost depending entirely on the activities selected. (TJQ)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

PS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

ED 376 985



STUDY BUDDIES

Andrea Winson

Lyseth Elementary School
175 Auburn Street
Portland, Maine 04103
(207) 874-8215

PS 022881

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Andrea Winson
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

Project SEED

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

the Center
Maine Center for Educational Services

STUDY BUDDIES

The Study Buddies Program is a partnership between an upper elementary classroom and a primary classroom. The Program could be modified for any grade level as long as all class members are willing to work with a different grade level class on a regular basis throughout the school year. Participating students and teachers plan social activities, academic enrichment sessions, and social projects that can be done cooperatively.

PROGRAM GOALS

The primary goal for establishing a Study Buddy Program is to foster cooperative working between students and teachers at different grade levels. Other goals include increasing effective communication, promoting responsible citizenship through service projects, and providing enrichment activities for all students.

PROCEDURE

To be most effective, the Program should be started in late September or early October. The initial step is for two classrooms to establish an agreement to become buddies. Next, each younger student is assigned an older

buddy. The selection process may be done randomly or with input from participating teachers. Unless a problem arises such as a personality conflict or a student transfer the buddies remain the same throughout the school year.

Most activities are shared on a whole class basis either weekly or biweekly during an established period. However, there may be times when buddies want to do things on their own. A student may ask a buddy to share lunch or recess time, spend some time at the library to select books, or work at a computer on a story.

The Study Buddy Program may be used in all areas of the curriculum. Although we worked in other curriculum strands, our main focus was the language arts strand with the emphasis on effective communication skills through stories, art, and drama.

The service projects undertaken by the study buddies may include visiting local nursing homes, providing food for area soup kitchens, or adopting a needy family at Thanksgiving or Christmas. The project may also be as simple as making a commitment to keep the school yard more attractive by picking up any trash. Through these service projects the children learn to become more responsible citizens.

Social activities help to establish a close bond between the buddies. At the beginning of the year, it is a way for upper grade students to help their younger buddies adjust to a new environment. Some of our most successful "celebrations" have been a scavenger hunt, a Thanksgiving feast, a face painting session, a Chinese New Year festival, a field day, and an end of the year picnic.

OUTCOMES

Those who adapt the Study Buddies Program should observe the following developments in the students participating in the Program: helping to plan activities that include multi-age children; appreciating the varied developmental skills; adjusting to personality and skill differences; and developing better listening skills.

TIME

It is necessary to schedule classroom time for both classes to brainstorm and select an activity. Time is also needed to gather or create the materials for their planned activity. Some projects such as producing big books or plays may require more time involvement by older students. Time will be needed for the classroom teachers to meet to discuss the Study Buddies sessions. These discussions might focus on whose room will be

used, which class is bringing what materials, and how much time will be needed for the project.

RESOURCES

Most materials and resources come from existing school supplies. Parents might be asked to provide materials or to donate their time to help with a special project. The cost of the Program depends entirely upon the activities selected.

CONCLUSION

The Study Buddies Program is an inexpensive program that any school could implement We have watched a close bond form between many buddies. It has fostered higher self-esteem and a mutual respect between younger and older students. When fourth grade students were asked to reflect upon their school year most wrote that being a study buddy was a highlight. They mentioned their enjoyment of "being a teacher", the pleasure of doing the projects they'd helped plan together, and the surprise of discovering that although their ages were not the same, they really had so much in common with their study buddies. The heart of the Study Buddy Program is friendship. One student expressed it very simply. "One thing that I noticed was every time we came in they had smiles on their faces. That made me so happy."